

wonders

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

September 2025

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year!



The Year Ahead

2025 - 2026 Organizational Goals

This year marks an important milestone in Wonders history - Wonders Early Learning and Extended Day is celebrating 50 years of educating and caring for children. Originally known as All Saints' All Day, Wonders was founded in 1976, as a community outreach program of All Saints' Church. The original vision set forth by the founders is still evident today:

In providing a loving homelike atmosphere in which young children can learn and play, "All Saints' All Day" Care Center hopes to serve working and student parents. Every staff member has training and experience in child development or early childhood education, and together are trying to build an exemplary learning program for both the children and their families. A continuing goal is the real participation by the parents whose children are with us and to make it their center as well as the children's center, for the underlying philosophy of the Center is that parenting and teaching should be done in partnership.

Wonders continues to demonstrate this early vision by our commitment to authentic partnerships with parents, providing tuition assistance to ensure access to our programs, investing in well-prepared educators who are trained in child development and early childhood education, and prioritizing high quality programs.

We look forward to celebrating this special year with you!

With Gratitude,



Joanne Hurt
Executive Director

Wonders Leadership

A Message from our Wonders Board President



On behalf of the Wonders Board of Directors, I am pleased to welcome you to our vibrant community! Wonders is a special organization filled with professionals who work everyday to support the learning and wellbeing of children and their families. This year, we will celebrate 50 incredible years of growing young minds and serving our community. We are grateful to all of the dedicated educators, staff, partners, alumni and families that make up the Wonders community. The other members of the Board and I hope you will join us during the activities and events we have planned throughout the year to mark this special milestone.

Sending you warm wishes for a great school year,

Shana Bartley

Wonders Board President

2025-2026

2025-2026 Board of Directors

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September Updates: Program Highlights & News

Empowering Wonders Educators



Wonders Professional Development Week

This August, our Early Learning and Extended Day educators came together for a week of professional development that set the tone for the year ahead. The week was filled with learning, collaboration, and inspiration. Workshop topics included **Advancing Equity in Early Childhood Education** with Christina Lopez and Alicia Cross, **Peace of Mind** with Elie Goldman, and **Team Building** with Gerald Bolden. Educators also rolled up their sleeves in hands-on workshops, practicing **First Aid/CPR**, exploring **Creative Curriculum**, **enhancing classroom transitions**, and weaving **arts and literacy** into daily learning.

In addition, all Wonders staff joined the **Wonders Fundamentals workshop**, where we reflected on the values and best practices that shape our mission. This week of shared growth not only strengthened skills but also deepened connections across our team, laying a powerful foundation for a joyful and successful 2025–2026 school year.



Snapshot of our 2025-2026 Team

As we kick off the new school year, we're proud to have **104 dedicated educators and staff members**. At Wonders, we actively cultivate a culture of belonging - where each community member is known and respected. Nurturing belonging is integral to building classroom communities and partnerships with families.

Staff recruitment is an ongoing process and the summer is particularly busy. Since May 2025, our recruitment team has reached out to 165 candidates, heard back from 90 possible candidates and conducted 70 interviews. We are excited to welcome the 13 new staff who have joined us! We continue to recruit for some positions, all current positions are listed on our [Careers page](#). Contact [Anila Rawasia, Wonders Recruitment Specialist](#), to learn more!

Celebrating 50 Years of Wonders



As we look ahead to 2026, we are thrilled to launch a year-long celebration of **Wonders' 50th anniversary!**

For five decades since 1976, Wonders has been a place where children learn through play, families find support, educators grow in their craft, and our community comes together to nurture the potential of every child.

Throughout the 2025–2026 school year, we'll be marking this milestone with a full calendar of events, stories, and opportunities for our entire Wonders family past and present to join in:

Community Gatherings & Special Events – From kick-off celebrations to our 50th Anniversary Garden Party in 2026, you'll have many chances to reconnect with old friends, meet new ones, and celebrate the impact Wonders has had in your life.

Alumni Spotlights – We'll be sharing stories from former students, parents, and staff, capturing the memories and experiences that have shaped the Wonders community over the decades.

Educator Appreciation Features – Our teachers have been the heart of Wonders for 50 years. Throughout the year, we'll highlight their dedication and the difference they make in children's lives every day.

Family & Staff Story Collection – We'll be inviting you to share your favorite Wonders memories, photos, and reflections for inclusion in our digital archive and anniversary displays.

A Look Ahead – Alongside celebrating our history, we'll be unveiling an updated strategic plan, refreshed mission and vision, and new goals that will guide Wonders into the next 50 years.

Whether you are an alumnus who still remembers your favorite Wonders classroom, a current parent watching your child grow here, or an educator who has helped shape our programs, this milestone is a celebration of YOU.

Stay tuned for invitations, opportunities to share your stories, and updates on the exciting year ahead. We can't wait to celebrate this extraordinary chapter together!

Community Spotlights



Welcome back First Fridays!

At Wonders, our First Friday Reader program brings the community to life with inspiring guest readers each month; creating meaningful connections and strengthening the bond between Wonders and the families we serve.

We're thrilled to welcome **Julie Yang, President of the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Board of Education**, as our First Friday guest reader at our Leland Center to kick off the new program year! We can't wait to have Julie join us and launch this beloved early learning tradition.

Interested in our First Friday Reading program? Reach out to [Brittney Stern, Development Manager](#) to learn how you can get involved!

Follow us on Social Media- Stay in the Know!

Stay connected with all things Wonders! Follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) for the latest news, updates, and behind-the-scenes moments.



We Value Your Feedback!

We value your feedback, comments, shout outs, and testimonials for our exceptional teachers and programs. If you'd like to give a shout-out to a teacher, click [here](#). If you want to share your experience with the community, please leave us a review on [Google](#)!

Donate to Wonders

Teaching children through play and a nurturing and diverse community.

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